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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/849,635	05/04/2001	Sami Shemtov	551-P-002	1568

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EXAMINER

DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/849,635

Applicant(s)

SHEMTOV, SAMI

Examiner

Aaron M Dunwoody

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-16, 18-35 and 37-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-16, 18-35 and 37-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2-4, 9-12, 18-20, 25-28, 33 and 37-40 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4107452, Razvi.

In regards to claim 38, Razvi discloses a combination device comprising:

a coupling member (11) adapted to receive one of a conduit;

the coupling member comprising a tubular member having opposed axially aligned ends, each of the ends adapted to receive one end of the conduit, and the tubular member having a top surface and an aperture through the top surface; and

a supporting member (53), the supporting member comprising a stem having a free end portion adapted to engage the conduit through the aperture (via 50),

wherein the supporting member is positioned above the aperture on the top surface of the tubular member.

In regards to claim 39, Razvi discloses a combination device comprising:

a coupling member (11) adapted to receive conduits;

the coupling member comprising an integral tubular member having generally cylindrical wall surrounding an interior space and opposed axially aligned ends, each of

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the ends adapted to receive one end of the pair of conduits, and the tubular member having an aperture through the cylindrical wall into the interior space; and

a supporting member (53), the supporting member comprising a stem having a free end portion engaging the aperture to support the tubular member and is positioned in the interior space of the tubular member sufficient to engage the ends of the conduits received the opposite ends of the tubular member (via 50).

In regards to claims 2 and 18, Razvi discloses the top surface being raised (axially) relative to the exterior surface of the tubular member.

In regards to claims 3, 4, 19 and 20, Razvi discloses the aperture being threaded internally and the stem, of the supporting member is externally matingly threaded at least at its free end for engaging into the internally threaded aperture.

In regards to claims 9-12 and 25-28, Razvi discloses a stop member (50) projecting internally at about the middle of the tubular member.

In regards to claim 33, Razvi discloses the free end of the stem of the supporting member being positioned within the confine of the tubular member in contact with the pair of conduits (via 50).

In regards to claim 37, Razvi discloses the aperture being generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tubular member.

In regards to claim 40, Razvi discloses the tubular member further having a wall surrounding an interior space, wherein the aperture is adapted to receive the free end portion of the stem of the supporting member within the interior space.

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Claims 3, 4, 19, 20, 33-35 and 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 3892136, Eidelberg.

In regards to claim 38, Eidelberg discloses a combination device comprising:
a coupling member (12, 21) adapted to receive one of a conduit;
the coupling member comprising a tubular member having opposed axially aligned ends, each of the ends adapted to receive one end of the conduit, and the tubular member having a top surface and an aperture through the top surface; and
a supporting member (20, 36), the supporting member comprising a stem having a free end portion adapted to engage the conduit through the aperture,
wherein the supporting member is positioned above the aperture on the top surface of the tubular member.

In regards to claim 39, Eidelberg discloses a combination device comprising:
a coupling member adapted to receive conduits;
the coupling member comprising an integral tubular member having generally cylindrical wall surrounding an interior space and opposed axially aligned ends, each of the ends adapted to receive one end of the pair of conduits, and the tubular member having an aperture through the cylindrical wall into the interior space; and
a supporting member, the supporting member comprising a stem having a free end portion engaging the aperture to support the tubular member and is positioned in the interior space of the tubular member sufficient to engage the ends of the conduits received the opposite ends of the tubular member.

In regards to claims 3, 4, 19 and 20, Eidelberg discloses the aperture being threaded internally and the stem, of the supporting member is externally matingly threaded at least at its free end for engaging into the internally threaded aperture.

In regards to claim 33, Eidelberg discloses the free end of the stem of the supporting member being positioned within the confine of the tubular member in contact with the pair of conduits.

In regards to claim 34, Eidelberg discloses each of the ends of the tubular member (24) being externally threaded for receiving the conduit.

In regards to claim 35, Eidelberg discloses each of the ends of the tubular member further having an opening through the tubular member, the opening is internally threaded to receive a set screw for securely positioning the conduit.

In regards to claim 37, Eidelberg discloses the aperture being generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tubular member.

In regards to claim 40, Eidelberg discloses the tubular member further having a wall surrounding an interior space, wherein the aperture is adapted to receive the free end portion of the stem of the supporting member within the interior space.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-8, 13-16, 21-24 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Razvi in view of US patent 4793578, Howard.

In regards to claims 5-8 and 21-24, Razvi discloses the claimed invention except for a lock nut along the stem. Howard teaches a lock nut (25) along a stem (30) to lock other components into a desired position (col. 3, lines 1-3). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a lock nut along a stem to lock other components into a desired position, as taught by Howard.

In regards to claims 13-16 and 29-32, Razvi discloses a stop member (50) projecting internally at about the middle of the tubular member.

Claims 5-8 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eidelberg in view of US patent 4793578, Howard.

In regards to claims 5-8 and 21-24, Eidelberg discloses the claimed invention except for a lock nut along the stem. Howard teaches a lock nut (25) along a stem (30) to lock other components into a desired position (col. 3, lines 1-3). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

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provide a lock nut along a stem to lock other components into a desired position, as taught by Howard.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims above have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Aaron M Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

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